



Iowa Smart Planning Task Force

Draft Recommendations for Public Comment

9/15/2010

INTRODUCTION

Encouraging and facilitating integrated planning at the local, regional, and state level has been identified as a crucial activity for reducing future risk posed by disasters, such as the 2008 floods. Iowa Smart Planning incorporates community resiliency concepts, while also proactively fostering economic development, improving the state's quality of life, and encouraging collaboration and cooperation.

The Iowa Smart Planning Bill (incorporated into SF2389) was signed into law on April 26, 2010, and includes three primary components:

- Articulates ten Iowa Smart Planning Principles;
- Outlines thirteen elements of a local comprehensive plan; and
- Establishes the Iowa Smart Planning Task Force.

The Iowa Smart Planning Task Force has been meeting since mid-June to research, develop, and evaluate policy options to support and enhance integrated smart planning throughout Iowa. In general, the Task Force was charged with making recommendations concerning:

- Integrating the Iowa Smart Planning Principles into appropriate state policies and programs.
- Determining an effective and efficient coordination and information sharing system to support local and regional planning.
- Developing a framework for regional planning.
- Suggesting appropriate technical and financial incentives to support local and regional planning.

With that charge in mind, this report outlines five major draft recommendations for inclusion in its first report to the Governor and General Assembly.

Please note that this report includes draft recommendations that have been released for public comment and that more work is yet to be done! Once collected and synthesized, the Task Force will utilize the public comments to refine and finalize recommendations. A final report is due to the Governor and General Assembly by November 15, 2010.

More information about Iowa Smart Planning and the Iowa Smart Planning Task Force can be found here: http://www.rio.iowa.gov/smart_planning/index.html

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Recommendation 1: Establish a framework to coordinate smart planning, geographic information and data systems, and state level investment.

Recommendation 1 satisfies the following tasks charged to the Iowa Smart Planning Task Force in SF2389:

- *Develop a set of recommendations that is consistent with the Iowa Smart Planning Principles and does all of the following:*
 - *Coordinates, facilitates, and centralizes the exchange of information related to state and local planning, zoning, and development between state agencies and the General Assembly.*
 - *Coordinates discussions concerning a proposed geographic information system between the producers and users of such systems.*
 - *Allows the efficient production and dissemination of population and other demographic statistical forecasts.*
 - *Creates a centralized storage location for all comprehensive plans.*
 - *Facilitates the cooperation of state and local governments with comprehensive planning, educational, and research programs.*
 - *Provides and administers technical and financial assistance for comprehensive planning.*
 - *Provides information to local governments related to state, federal, and other resources for comprehensive planning.*
- *Develop statewide goals for comprehensive planning that utilize the Iowa Smart Planning Principles and develop recommendations to process to measure progress toward achieving state goals.*
- *Develop a model for regional comprehensive planning for Iowa and recommend partnerships between state agencies, local governments, educational institutions, and research facilities.*
- *Review city and county comprehensive plans to determine the number of such plans that address the hazards as listed in the Hazards Element of the suggested local comprehensive plan guidelines and the adequacy of such plans in addressing those hazards.*
- *Evaluate state policies, programs, statutes, and rules to determine whether they should be revised to integrate the Iowa Smart Planning Principles*

Proposal

This recommendation outlines a framework to coordinate smart comprehensive planning, geographic information and data systems, and state level investment in programs and projects that affect community building, land use, and quality of life. The framework includes establishment of a state-level entity, herein referred to as the Office of Planning and Geographic Information Systems (OPGIS), as well as the formation of two councils, the GIS & Data Systems Council and the Planning Coordination Council, to coordinate and oversee the efforts of the OPGIS. This proposal details the roles and responsibilities of each entity within the framework and includes provisions to support recommendations concerning planning incentives, technical assistance, and state-level public investment coordination.

Prior to the passage of SF2389, comprehensive planning in Iowa was mostly conducted at the local level, with topical plans (e.g. transportation, economic development, trails, etc.) made at the regional level, creating a siloed, horizontal framework. Figure 1.1 conceptually illustrates these relationships, noting little legislative guidance for local and regional planning, topical regional plans produced by councils of government (COGs), assistance provided to local governments by COGs upon request, and a low level of investment coordination among state agencies.

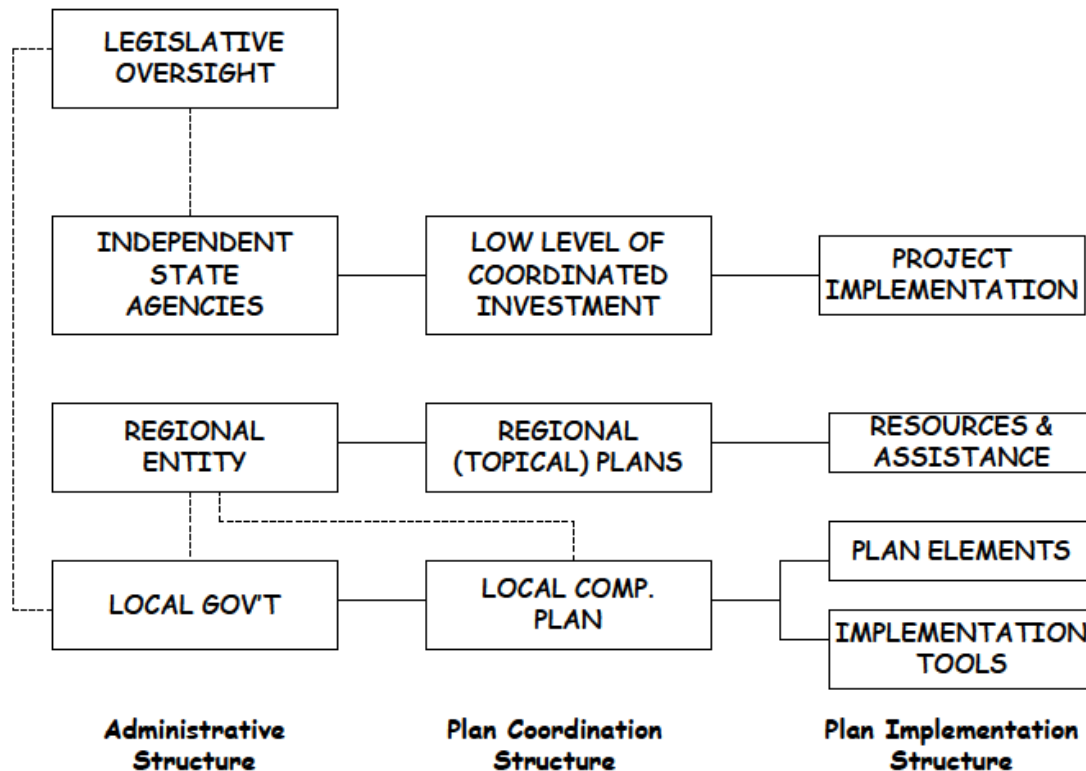


Figure 1.1. Planning framework before passage of SF2389

After being signed into law in April 2010, SF2389 modified the existing framework by adding some vertical coordination. This legislation endorsed Smart Planning Principles that must be considered and may be applied to appropriate planning, zoning, development, and resource management decisions; outlined Smart Comprehensive Plan Elements to guide local plan development; and created the Smart Planning Task Force to craft recommendations for a more integrated, supported planning framework. Figure 1.2 conceptually illustrates these existing relationships, noting stronger legislative guidance for local planning, greater consistency in local plan development, and overarching principles to guide planning and decision-making processes.

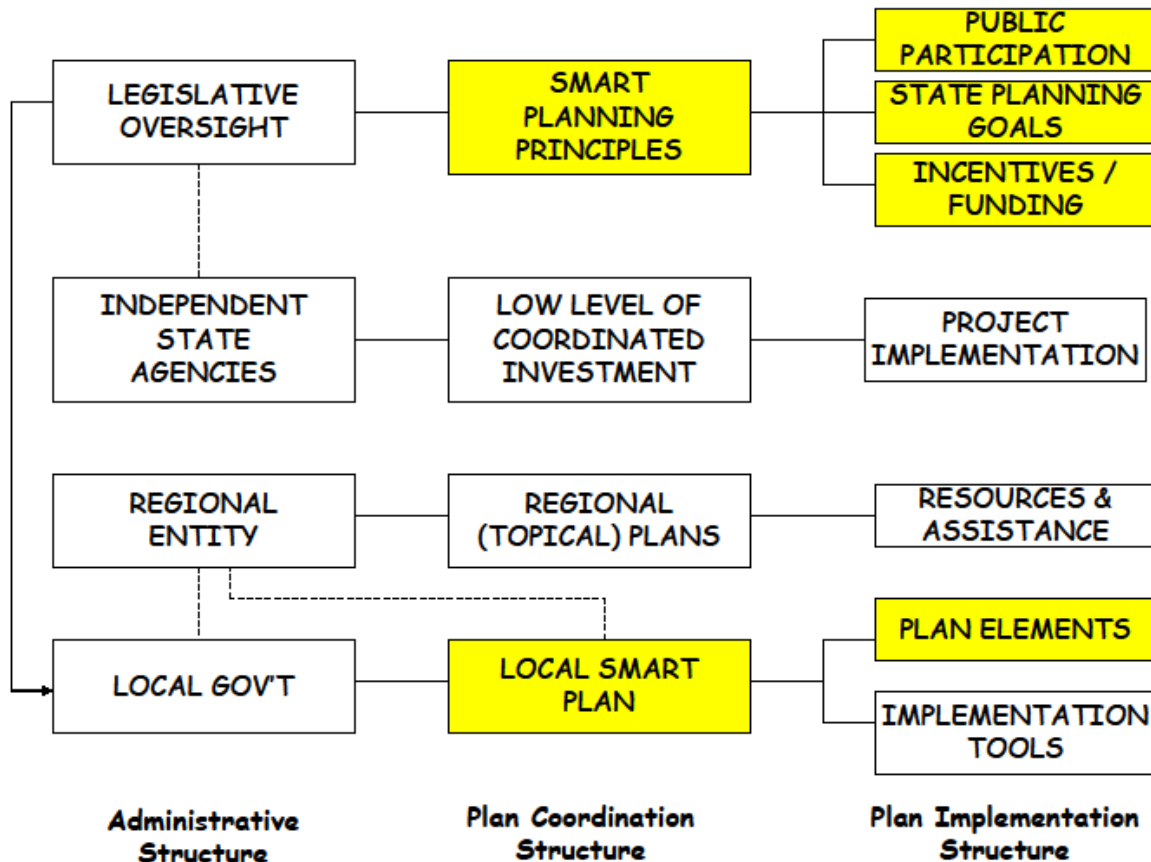


Figure 1.2 Planning framework after passage of SF2389

As noted in Figure 1.3 below, this proposal builds on the existing framework by strengthening vertical coordination at all levels of government (local, regional, and state) and horizontal coordination at the state-level. Benchmarks are included so that progress can be measured, and greater investment coordination is emphasized at the state level. The Task Force believes that this framework will serve Iowa well, ensuring that issues that impact multiple political jurisdictions, such as flooding, have a forum in which they can be effectively addressed, and that the state is coordinating investment decisions to maximize the impact of limited state resources and efficiently and effectively promote implementation of smart projects.

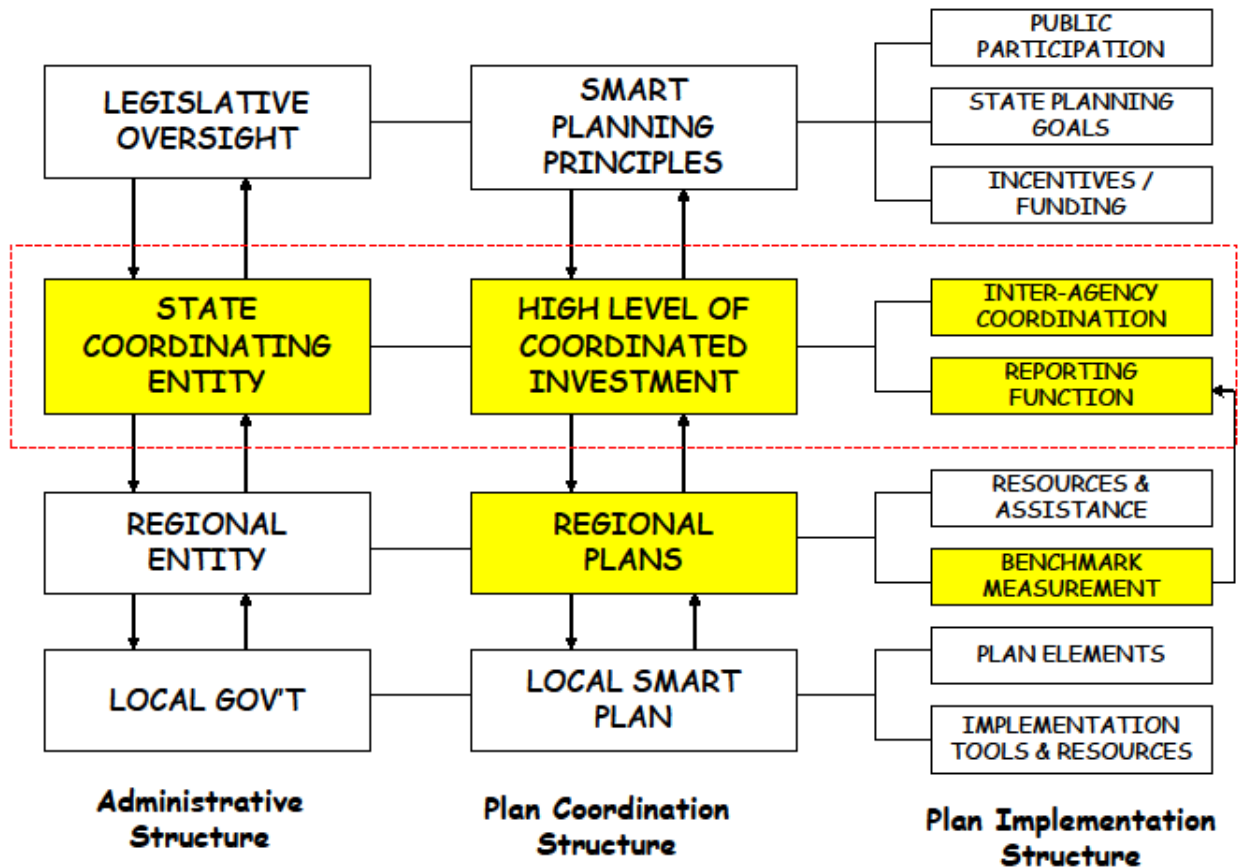


Figure 1.3 Proposed smart planning framework

The concepts illustrated in Figure 1.3 can be made most effective with the identification of a state coordinating entity, identified in this report as the OPGIS. This entity, guided by two councils, will be charged with fostering state inter-agency coordination of investment, reporting to the legislature on matters concerning the state of smart planning in Iowa, coordinating with COGs to develop regional smart plans, and offering assistance and resources on planning to all levels of government. Planning efforts of this entity will also complement and strengthen the proposed watershed planning and coordination activities led by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (see Recommendation 4). The improved framework will coordinate efforts and assistance at all levels to create a unified effort for planning, public investment, and hazard mitigation. Figure 1.4 illustrates the proposed relationships between the two coordinating councils, the OPGIS, COGs, and local governments.



State of Iowa Smart Planning Framework

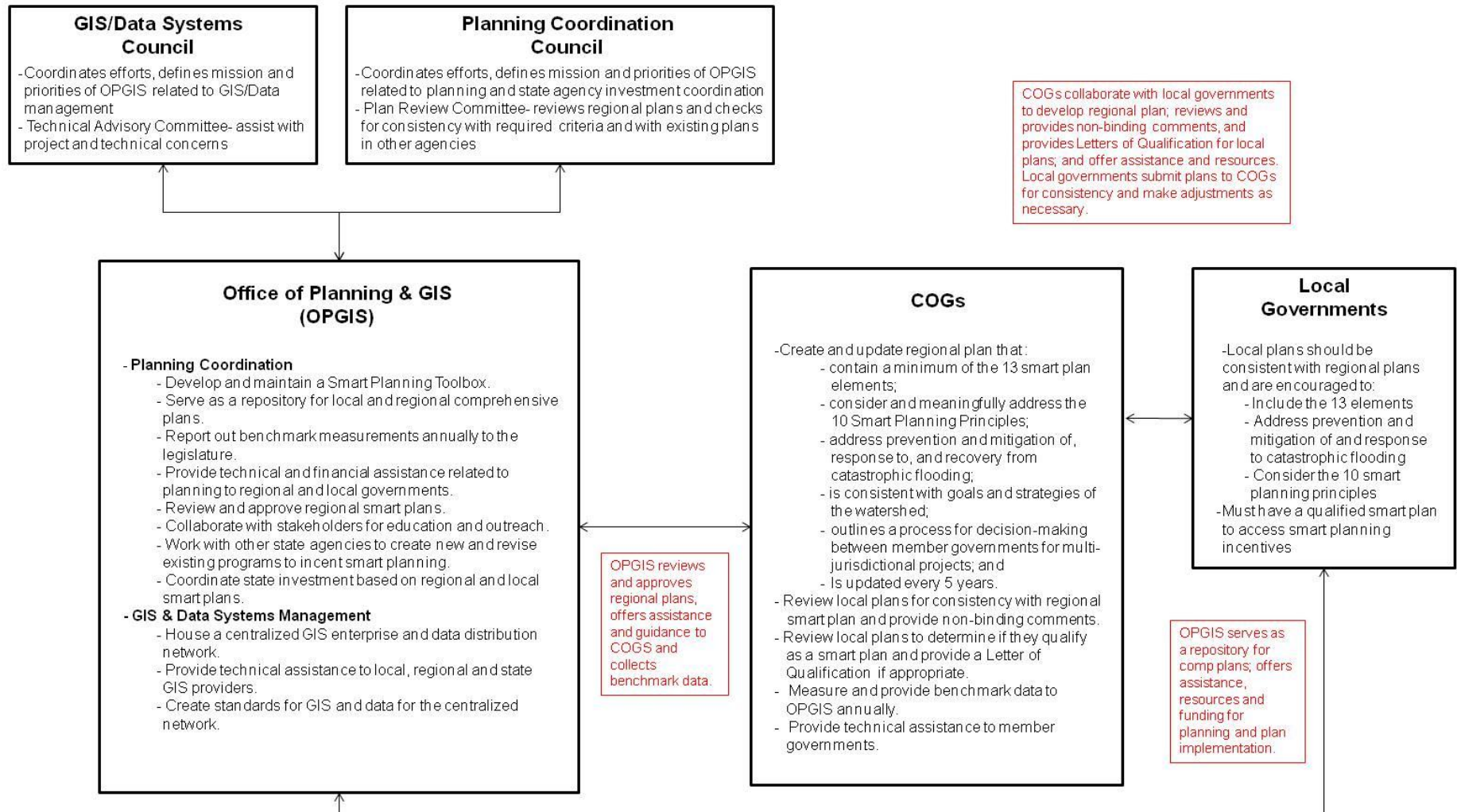


Figure 1.4 Detailed proposed smart planning framework.

Recommendation 1.1: Establish the GIS & Data Systems and Planning Coordination Councils, and the Office of Planning and Geographic Information Systems (OPGIS).

Proposal

This proposal recommends that two councils and an associated office be established by the legislature to guide efforts related to 1) GIS and data systems and 2) smart planning coordination. Figure 1.4 above illustrates the relationships and responsibilities for the two councils and associated office, which are outlined below:

GIS & Data Systems Council

This council coordinates efforts, defines the mission, and establishes priorities and responsibilities of the OPGIS in matters related to GIS and data systems. Collection and coordination of geospatial data will serve planners, as well as all who consume Iowa geospatial data.

The Council is made up of appointees from state, regional, and local governments, universities and colleges, and/or the private sector.

Suggested membership includes:

- League of Cities (2)
- Iowa State Association of Counties (2)
- Iowa Association of Regional Councils (1)
- Regents Universities (3)
- State Government GIS Steering Committee (5)
- Appointed by Governor (5)

A Technical Advisory Committee may be set up through the Council for specific tasks and projects to assist the OPGIS. The Iowa Geographic Council, a voluntary group, may serve this purpose.

Planning Coordination Council

This council coordinates efforts, defines the mission, and establishes priorities and responsibilities of the OPGIS in matters related to smart planning and state investment coordination. The Council will also act as a forum for coordination of state investment based on regional and local smart planning. A Plan Review Committee would review regional smart plans for compliance with the required criteria (outlined in Recommendation 2), consistency with existing plans housed in other state agencies (e.g. Transportation Improvement Plan, Hazard Mitigation Plan, etc.) and provide comments on regional plans to the regional entity.

Suggested membership of the Council includes:

- Iowa Association of Regional Councils (2)
- League of Cities (1)
- Iowa State Association of Counties (1)
- Regents Universities (3)
- State Department Directors or Representatives (7)
 - Department of Transportation (1)
 - Department of Natural Resources (1)
 - Department of Economic Development (1)
 - Department of Agriculture (1)
 - Department of Management (1)
 - Department of Cultural Affairs (1)
 - Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division (1)
- Appointed by Governor (5)

Advisory groups may be set up through the Council for specific tasks and projects to assist the OPGIS. Such groups may include an Interagency Investment Coordination Advisory group and an Incentives and Assistance Advisory Group.

Office of Planning and Geographic Information Systems

Effective coordination of planning efforts across the state will rely on an entity at the state-level that can foster successful partnerships between state, regional and local governments and resource organizations. The Office of Planning and Geographic Information Systems (OPGIS) to create these partnerships and coordinate effective and efficient planning at all levels, and serve as a clearinghouse for information on Smart Planning. The coordinating councils described in above will define OPGIS's mission and establish priorities.

The recommended scope of work for OPGIS includes:

- Planning Coordination
 - Develop and maintain a Smart Planning Toolbox (see Recommendation 3.7).
 - Serve as a repository for local and regional comprehensive plans.
 - Report out benchmark measurements annually to the legislature (see Recommendation 1.6).
 - Provide technical and financial assistance related to planning to regional and local governments (see Recommendation 3).
 - Review and approve regional smart plans (see Recommendation 2).

- Collaborate with stakeholders for education and outreach (see Recommendation 3.6).
- Work with other state agencies to create new and revise existing programs to incent smart planning (see Recommendation 3.5).
- Support the Planning Coordination Council in efforts to coordinate state investment based on regional and local smart plans.
- GIS & Data Management
 - House a centralized GIS enterprise and data distribution network (see Recommendation 3.8).
 - Provide technical assistance to local, regional and state GIS providers.
 - Create standards for GIS and data for the centralized network.

Location of the Coordinating Councils and OPGIS

The Task Force believes it is important to note that the two councils and the associated office necessitate autonomy, authority, and responsibility to lead and coordinate smart planning and investment processes at the state level. With that in mind, the Task Force suggests the following structure:

1. The two Coordinating Councils and OPGIS could be established as an independent office, similar to the way in which the Iowa Office of Energy Independence or the Rebuild Iowa Office (RIO) is structured.

Or

2. The two Coordinating Councils and the OPGIS could be placed within an existing agency; however, the planning and GIS functions must retain autonomy under this scenario. Existing agencies that could be considered include the Departments of Management, Administrative Services, or Economic Development.

Alternatively, the planning and GIS functions could be separated completely and either exist as independent offices or be placed within an existing agency.

Justification

- Creation of coordinating councils will ensure that the mission and priorities of the OPGIS are an interagency, intergovernmental and interdisciplinary collaboration.
- Coordination of state-level assistance, resources and strategies will require a state-level coordinating entity.
- Development of a centralized comprehensive plan database, GIS and data systems network, resource and education guide, and toolbox will greatly aid regional and local governments in creation of smart plans.

- Development of standards and guidance regarding what constitutes a qualifying smart plan will provide transparency, efficiency and consistency when considering smart plans for incentives.
- Dedicating staff and experts to provide technical assistance to local governments will ensure that all entities wishing to create a smart plan have the capacity to do so.
- A return on investment study showed that the establishment of a GIS/data management system could produce a 24% return on investment and return \$5 for every \$1 spent over 20 years; these systems become even more valuable during disasters, such as the floods of 2008 - http://www.rio.iowa.gov/smart_planning/assets/2010-07-07_ROI_studies_overview.pdf

Action Steps (Legislative/ Administrative)

- Creation of the GIS & Data Systems and Planning Coordination Councils by the Legislature.
- Creation of the OPGIS by the Legislature.
- Resources allocated by Legislature for OPGIS.
- Creation of OPGIS Administrative Rules.

References

- Maryland State Geographic Information Committee
- Washington State Geographic Information Council
- Delaware's Cabinet Committee on State Planning Issues
 - Delaware Strategies for State Policies and Spending- coordinates land use decision making with the provision of infrastructure and services in a manner that makes the best use of natural and fiscal resources.
- New Jersey Department of Community Affairs: Office of Smart Growth
- Connecticut Office of Policy and Management: Office of Responsible Growth
- Georgia Department of Community Affairs
- Florida Department of Community Affairs: Division of Smart Growth
- Minnesota Department of Administration: Office of Geographic and Demographic Analysis
- Delaware Office of State Planning Coordination
- Return on Investment Case Study of Iowa One Map: A Public Private Partnership for the Shared Development of the Iowa Geospatial Infrastructure: http://www.rio.iowa.gov/smart_planning/assets/2010-07-07_ROI_studies_overview.pdf

Recommendation 1.2: Integrate the Smart Planning Principles into the State's Enterprise Strategic Planning Process

Proposal

The Iowa Department of Management (IDOM) oversees the state of Iowa's Enterprise Strategic Planning Process through which individual agencies develop three to five year plans that lay out essential goals, strategies, and measures. This helps ensure that each agency remains focused on and makes progress towards achieving its vision and mission. This process currently lacks the direction of an overall statewide vision and goals.

The Task Force recommends that the Enterprise Strategic Planning Process be modified to incorporate Iowa Smart Planning Principles in the following ways, utilizing technical assistance from OPGIS staff:

- a) Create and regularly update a statewide vision and strategic plan that incorporates the Iowa Smart Planning Principles to which agency strategic plans should align.
- b) Update the *Guide for Agency Strategic Planning* to explain how state agencies should incorporate Smart Planning Principles.
- c) Create and update metrics toward the Principles in both the statewide and individual agency plans.
- d) IDOM should be a clearinghouse of agency strategic plans and provide accountability and transparency on metrics.

Justification

- Establishing an overall vision for the state with specific goals will provide direction for agencies to align strategies and objectives and provide clarity at the local level when all agencies are working towards achieving a shared vision.
- Discussion following the review of the preliminary results of the State Agency Pilot Survey and the Enterprise Strategic Planning Process identified a lack of an overall statewide vision and goals.

Action Steps (Legislative/ Administrative)

- Integration of Smart Planning Principles into the Enterprise Planning Process.
- Allocate funding for IDOM for additional staff resources to implement a process to create statewide vision and goals that incorporate the Iowa Smart Planning Principles.

References

- *Guide for State Agency Strategic Planning*, State of Iowa, April 2007
- Iowa Smart Planning Task Force State Agency Pilot Survey Preliminary Results

Recommendation 1.3: Iowa Councils of Governments (COGs) should serve as the geographic entities for regional smart plans.

Proposal

The proposed framework includes the recommendation that COGs be charged with creating regional comprehensive smart plans for their area. Smart regional plans will be mandatory under this framework and must be updated every five years. The plan must have the required elements and components described in Recommendation 2. Other recommended roles and responsibilities of the COGs as the regional planning entity include:

- Reviewing local plans for consistency with the regional smart plan and provide non-binding comments.
- Upon request, reviewing local plans to determine if they qualify as a smart plan and provide a Letter of Qualification (see Recommendation 1.4).
- Measuring and submitting benchmark data to OPGIS annually (see Recommendation 1.6).
- Providing technical assistance to member governments.

To facilitate the work as a regional entity, COGs should be provided with adequate resources to carry out recommendations from the Iowa Smart Planning Task Force related to regional planning efforts which may include receiving levy authority or another constant guaranteed stream of funding (see Recommendation 3.3).

Justification

- COGs are familiar entities and have established partnerships with local governments and state agencies, including offering planning assistance to member governments.

Action Steps (Legislative/ Administrative)

- Allocation of resources to COGs for regional comprehensive planning purposes via an existing funding source, identification of a new funding source, or a combination of the two. Matching resources via COGs, local governments, federal agencies, or other sources should be considered.

References

- From their website at www.eastcentralrpc.org, East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, "Shaping Our Future in the 21st Century" FAQ., Smart Growth Planning Map dated Feb. 2007, and Planning Process: Schedule and Budget, and Year 2030 Regional Framework Map.
- Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, Land Lines: November 2000, Volume 12, Number 6, Regional Planning in America: Updating Earlier Versions.

- Milestone Report #3, Goals, Strategies, and a Plan for Action, Year 2030 Regional Comprehensive Plan, April 25, 2008, East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission.
- “The Promise of Wisconsin’s 1999 Comprehensive Planning Law: Land-Use Policy Reforms to Support Active Living,” Joseph Schilling & Sheila D. Keyes, Virginia Tech University.
- Integrating Land Use, Transportation, and Economic Development in Pennsylvania.” NADO Research Foundation. 2010.
- Land Use Planning and Management in Iowa, State of Iowa 1977.

Recommendation 1.4: A Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) for each region should be established by the COGs for local smart plan review.

Proposal

The Planning Advisory Committees (PACs) are responsible for reviewing and approving regional smart plans before submittal to the OPGIS. Local governments that wish to may submit their plans to the PACs for review for qualification as a “Smart Plan.” PACs will issue a Letter of Qualification to for local plans that qualify. Qualified smart plans should provide quicker access to state technical and financial assistance.

To qualify as a “Smart Plan,” local plans must including the following elements as outlined in SF2389:

- 1) contain the 13 Smart Plan Elements;
- 2) address prevention and mitigation of, response to, and recovery from catastrophic flooding; and
- 3) consider and meaningfully address the 10 Smart Planning Principles.

An appeal process should be determined should a local community disagree with a PAC decision on qualification as a smart plan. The Regional Planning Advisory Committees should provide non-binding comments to cities and counties after plan review.

Justification

- Reviewing local plans at the advisory committee level ensures transparency and consistency among reviews. This streamlined review process will limit paperwork and eliminate confusion for grant reviewers at the state-level.
- Inclusion of hazard mitigation within the local plan is encouraged. As tasked in SF2389, the Committee evaluated local comprehensive plans in the State of Iowa to determine the extent to which hazards were considered in

planning. Nine cities and three counties (based on population tiers) were used in the evaluation. The study showed that:

- Only six of the nine cities sampled has an approved FEMA Hazard Mitigation Plan or is part of the county's plan. Only one of the counties sampled has an approved plan while a second county is in the process of updating their expired plan.
 - None of the sampled comprehensive plans contained a Hazard Mitigation or Hazards Assessment section, although many of the plans referenced considering certain hazards in the planning process. These references were mostly concerning flood plains and flood damage mitigation.
 - Only half of the plans sampled contained a section specifically on flood plain management with regard to land use. These sections came in the form of both text and maps.
- A study by Burby indicated that insured losses to residential property over the period between 1994 and 2000 could have been reduced by 0.52% if all states had required local comprehensive plans and by a further 0.47% if, in addition, they had required consideration of natural hazards in local plans.
 - With approximately \$10 billion in property damage from the 2008 floods, this would equate to a savings of approximately \$100 million. This estimate is conservative as Burby's data relies only on insured losses; with most losses the result of flooding in Iowa, which has a higher likelihood of not being covered by insurance, the savings would likely be significantly higher. FEMA estimates that in 2008, fewer than 10% of property owners impacted by the flood had flood insurance. Additionally, Iowa is experiencing flooding on a more regular basis, resulting in more savings over a longer period of time.

Action Steps (Legislative/ Administrative)

- Creation of the PACs by the COGs.
- Requirements of a qualified smart plan written into Iowa Code.
- Development of qualification review guidance by the Planning Coordinating Council.

References

- Local Comprehensive Planning Workgroup. *Integrating Hazard Assessment into Comprehensive Planning Study*.
- Burby, Raymond. "Have state comprehensive planning mandates reduced insured losses from natural disasters?". *Natural Hazards Review*. (Vol. 6, Issues 2, pp. 67-81) 2005.

- Vermont Statutes Title 24, Chapter 117, Section 4350- Review and consultation regarding municipal planning efforts

Recommendation 1.5: A COG or COGs should be established in central Iowa for the seven counties (Boone, Dallas, Jasper, Marion, Polk, Story, and Warren Counties) not currently served or served in-part by an existing COG by June 30, 2015.

Proposal

A COG or COGs should be established by the local communities and counties within the seven county central Iowa region that is currently not served or served in-part by an existing COG to ensure that integrated, regional planning may occur in a manner consistent with the regional planning efforts across the state. Cities and counties in central Iowa may opt to create one new COG, multiple COGs, join adjacent COGs, or expand the duties of the Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization or another organization to incorporate the regional planning responsibilities.

The local communities may be assisted by the state, ISAC, the Iowa League of Cities, IARC, the Metropolitan Coalition, and other appropriate entities to facilitate the formation and staffing of a COG or COGs in central Iowa. In the interim, the Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization is encouraged to assist central Iowa with regional planning activities. Alternatively, any of the seven counties mentioned above may join an existing adjacent COG.

Justification

- The lack of a COG in central Iowa poses problems for the creation of a regional plan in that area.
- Creation of a central Iowa COG will assist with consistent application of regional planning and qualification procedures for local smart plans.

Action Steps (Legislative/ Administrative)

- Update of Iowa Code Chapter 28H to recognize the new COG(s).

References

- Iowa Code Chapter 28H.

Recommendation 1.6: Identify “State of Iowa Smart Planning Goals and Benchmarks” as goals for the OPGIS.

Proposal

It is recommended that the OPGIS and Planning Coordination Council adopt the “State of Iowa Smart Planning Goals and Benchmarks” as part of their goals and guiding principles. The following section describes the goals and benchmarks in detail. The Smart Planning Goals and Benchmarks stem from the vision that smart planning should result in greater economic opportunity, enhanced environmental integrity, improved public health, and high quality of life for all Iowans. The following goals should be considered a sample starting point.

State of Iowa Smart Planning Goals and Benchmarks

Goal 1: Collaboration

To foster a collaborative planning process through partnerships between state agencies and organizations, regional entities, counties, cities, the rural community, and the public at large.

Strategy 1.1- Encourage public involvement in the planning process.

	Benchmarks
1.1.1	Increase in the number of public input sessions and in the number of participants in these input sessions.
1.1.2	Increase in the public access to plans through online availability and outreach materials.

Strategy 1.2- Increase access to partner resources for more efficient and effective planning.

	Benchmarks
1.2.1	Creation and maintenance of a Smart Planning Toolbox to include best practices, resources and models; with an interactive comment process for user recommendations on improvements and additions.
1.2.2	Collection and reporting of baseline data regarding planning and development at the local, regional and state level.
1.2.3	Identification and prioritization of areas of the state that have greater needs and issues requiring assistance.
1.2.4	Collection of all comprehensive plans to establish an electronic database.
1.2.5	Increase in availability of best available data on flood mapping, runoff and precipitation.

Strategy 1.3- Provide education on smart planning.

	Benchmarks
1.3.1	Creation of an education program on smart planning through collaboration among the Iowa League of Cities, the Iowa State Association of Counties (ISAC), Iowa Association of Regional Council (IARC), regent universities and other interested

	stakeholders.
1.3.2	Increase in the number of participants (public, elected and appointed officials, staff, youth and schools) completing a smart planning education program.

Goal 2: Efficiency, Transparency, and Consistency

To provide for increased efficiency, transparency and consistency in planning and investment processes, and to ensure equitable availability of resources.

Strategy 2.1- Promote coordination among state agencies for investment in smart planning.

	Benchmarks
2.1.1	Increase in percentage of investment in localities with smart plans compared to overall investment in similar projects/programs.
2.1.2	Increase in incentives for implementation of smart plans and watershed planning.

Strategy 2.2- Encourage consistency in development standards.

	Benchmarks
2.2.1	Increase in the number of Iowa cities and counties that have an adopted and are enforcing a nationally recognized building code, including the state energy code.
2.2.2	Increase in the percentage of new construction in compliance with a nationally recognized building code, including the state energy code.

Strategy 2.3- Report successes and desired improvements.

	Benchmarks
2.3.1	Completion of an annual "State of Smart Planning" report on key metrics and success stories around the state.
2.3.2	Increase in the effective use of technology for collaboration, education, and participation in the planning process.

Goal 3: Livable Communities and Quality of Life

To promote livable communities and maintain a high quality of life through housing and transportation diversity.

Strategy 3.1- Promote housing diversity.

	Benchmarks
3.1.1	Increase in housing diversity through adaptive reuse of existing structures (e.g. granny flats, accessory apartments, lofts, etc.).
3.1.2	Increase in the number of affordable housing units.
3.1.3	Decrease in the number and percentage of residents who spend more than 30 percent of their household income on housing, including utilities.

Strategy 3.2- Encourage multimodal transportation.

	Benchmarks
3.2.1	Decrease in the number of vehicle miles (or vehicle hours) traveled per capita.

3.2.2	Increase in the number of trips made by carpool, public transportation, bicycles, walking or working at home.
3.2.3	Increase in the number of trail, pedestrian or bike plans and paths built.

Goal 4: Sustainable Design and Community Character

To encourage the sustainable design of communities with the goal of reducing urban sprawl while supporting and strengthening the character of the community.

Strategy 4.1- Identify “Priority Growth Areas” based on application of Smart Planning Principles to projected development and population demand identified in the local smart plan. Priority Growth Areas may include those which focus on aspects of development such as revitalization, expansion, rural/transitional, and Transportation Oriented Design (TODs), among others.

	Benchmarks
4.1.1	Identification, quantification and prioritization of Priority Growth Areas for a 20 year period and percent of projected demand the Priority Growth Areas will accommodate.
4.1.2	Increase in the percentage of new development in a Priority Growth Area compared with all new development.
4.1.3	Increase in the average density (persons/acre) of new development in Priority Growth Areas compared to the average density of existing development.
4.1.4	Decrease in annexation of land that is not within a Priority Growth Area.
4.1.5	Increase in public investment in Priority Growth Areas.

Strategy 4.2- Identify “Natural Resource Protection” and “Agricultural Protection” areas.

	Benchmarks
4.2.1	Identification, quantification and prioritization of Natural Resource Protection areas.
4.2.2	Decrease in the percentage of new development in protection areas compared with all new development.
4.2.3	Increase in the amount of land within protection areas which are protected by land development regulations, special state programs or voluntary means.
4.2.4	Identification, quantification and prioritization of Agricultural Protection areas.
4.2.5	Increase in the amount of land devoted to local food production.

Strategy 4.3- Encourage sustainable development and building practices and energy efficiency.

	Benchmarks
4.3.1	Increase in the amount of new development utilizing low impact development (LID) techniques.
4.3.2	Increase in the amount of new development meeting or exceeding recognized energy conservation standards.
4.3.3	Increase in the amount of development of “reused” land and buildings (i.e. redevelopment and historic preservation as opposed to new development on greenfield sites).

4.3.4	Increase in the conversion of vacant or underutilized, buildable land within Priority Growth Areas.
4.3.5	Increase in the amount of new development achieving energy conservation certification from a recognized national program (e.g. LEED, NAHB, IGCC).

Strategy 4.4- Maintain and strengthen community character and identity.

	Benchmarks
4.4.1	Identification of cultural and historic districts.
4.4.2	Increase in compatible development in cultural and historic districts.
4.4.3	Increase in access to local foods through farmer's markets, community gardens, community supported agriculture (CSAs), institutional purchase programs and other programs.
4.4.4	Increase in the number of local food system plans adopted across the state through participation in regional food system working groups and other similar programs.

Justification

- Goal setting gives the Planning Coordination Council and the OPGIS a basis from which programs and resources can be crafted.
- Clear benchmarks give the State, COGs and local governments guidance on smart plan implementation and smart investing.
- Pre-set benchmarks give local governments and COGs adequate notice on what measurements will need to be collected in the future, allowing for efficiency in collecting data.
- Quantifiable and specific benchmarks that are reported out annually give the Legislature hard data from which new programs can be created or existing programs and processes can be adjusted.

Action Steps (Legislative/ Administrative)

- Integration of State Goals and Benchmarks into OPGIS Administrative Rules.

References

- Oregon's Statewide Planning Goals and Guidelines (Department of Land Conservation and Development)
- Georgia's State Planning Goals and Objectives (Department of Community Affairs)
- Vermont Planning and Development Goals
- Conservation and Development Plan for Connecticut (Office of Policy and Management)

Recommendation 2: Require completion of regional comprehensive smart plans within 5 years after legislation is enacted.

Recommendation 2 satisfies the following tasks charged to the Iowa Smart Planning Task Force in SF2389:

- *Develop a model for regional comprehensive planning for Iowa and recommend partnerships between state agencies, local governments, educational institutions, and research facilities.*

Proposal

Iowa is currently served by 17 regional Councils of Governments (COGs) that are organized according to existing political and public service systems with aggregations of counties as the basis for their boundaries. Each of the 17 COG regions in Iowa, as well as the area currently not served by a COG, should prepare a smart plan that guides coordinated, efficient, and effective development of the region. These regional smart plans should promote greater economic opportunity, enhanced environmental integrity, improved public health, and high quality of life for rural and urbanized areas within the region. The regional entity should evaluate and plan for the present and future needs and resources of the region. The smart plans should foster a fair and equitable decision-making process. Regional plans are advisory and should be available as a resource for local governments in completing their plans.

Regional smart plans would be required from all 18 regions. These plans are to include at a minimum:

Requirement #1: Regional plans must include the 13 elements outlined in the Iowa Smart Planning Legislative Guide. These elements include:

- 1) Public Participation
- 2) Issues and Opportunities
- 3) Land Use
- 4) Housing
- 5) Public Infrastructure and Utilities
- 6) Transportation
- 7) Economic Development
- 8) Agricultural and Natural Resources
- 9) Community Facilities
- 10) Community Character
- 11) Hazards
- 12) Intergovernmental Collaboration
- 13) Implementation

Requirement #2: Regional plans must consider and meaningfully address the 10 Smart Planning Principles:

- 1) Collaboration
- 2) Efficiency, Transparency and Consistency
- 3) Clean, Renewable and Efficient Energy
- 4) Occupational Diversity
- 5) Revitalization
- 6) Housing Diversity
- 7) Community Character
- 8) Natural Resources and Agricultural Protection
- 9) Sustainable Design
- 10) Transportation Diversity

Requirement #3: Regional plans must address prevention and mitigation of, response to, and recovery from catastrophic flooding.

Requirement #4: Regional plans must be consistent with the goals and strategies developed for the applicable watershed(s) if such plan exists (see Recommendation 4).

Requirement #5: Regional plans must outline a process for cooperation, collaboration and decision-making between member governments for multi-jurisdictional projects/programs.

Requirement #6: Regional plans are to be updated every five years. Any amendments to the regional plans within intervening years must be submitted for review and approval.

Again, COGs should be provided with adequate resources to complete and update the plan.

Justification

- Planning at the COG level will promote multijurisdictional collaboration on projects and issue that span across city and county lines, such as flood mitigation strategies.
- Regional plans prepared by the COGs can act as baseline data for the local plans for areas like floodplain and water resource management, transportation, and economic development.
- Regional plans maximize the effectiveness of regional services, infrastructure investments and incentives, thus saving tax dollars.

Action Steps (Legislative/ Administrative)

- Add requirement of a regional plan and required elements of a regional plan to Iowa State Code 28H.

References

- Burby, Raymond. "Have state comprehensive planning mandates reduced insured losses from natural disasters?". Natural Hazards Review. (Vol. 6, Issues 2, pp. 67-81) 2005.
- Wisconsin Code 66.1001, Section 5: Applicability of a Regional Planning Commission's Plan
- Twin Cities Metropolitan Council- Regional Development Framework

Recommendation 3: Create financial incentives and offer technical assistance to incent smart planning at both the regional and local levels.

Recommendation 3 satisfies the following tasks charged to the Iowa Smart Planning Task Force in SF2389:

- *Evaluate and develop incentives to conduct local and regional comprehensive planning, including but not limited to state financial and technical assistance.*
- *Recommend the means by which technical and financial assistance for comprehensive planning can be provided and administered.*
- *Evaluate state policies, programs, statutes, and rules to determine whether they should be revised to integrate the Iowa Smart Planning Principles*

Proposal

The Task Force is recommending an array of financial incentives and technical assistance to encourage smart planning at the local and regional level. The State has a vested interest to ensure there is capacity for regional and local planning. Regional planning entities and COGs do not typically engage in comprehensive regional planning due primarily to a lack of statutory requirement and necessary resources. In addition to financial resources, meaningful application of smart planning principles may not be possible without a necessary educational component to increase capacity and advocate best practices.

This proposal recommends both financial and programmatic incentives as well as establishing sound technical assistance and availability of resources. Financial and programmatic incentives include expanding the menu of financing options for local governments, establishing a funding source for smart planning, and consideration of smart plans for priority in applicable state funding programs. Technical assistance recommendations include creating an education and outreach program, developing a smart planning toolbox, and establishing a GIS enterprise system.

Recommendation 3.1: Create a sustainable funding source for regional smart planning conducted by COGs.

Proposal

A sustainable funding source should be created to aid COGs in creating regional smart plans. There are several options for funding these activities. The Task Force recommends considering:

- Redirect a portion of existing funding sources (e.g. CDBG, Real Estate Transfer Tax, etc.).
- Establish a new funding source.
- Allowing COGs levy authority to conduct regional planning.

Justification

- COGs currently lack the necessary resources to conduct regional, comprehensive planning. Such planning is necessary to address issues that are geographically large in scope and cross multiple jurisdictions, such as flood mitigation.

Action Steps (Legislative/ Administrative)

- Legislature should consider all options and take action as deemed appropriate to adequately support regional planning:
 - Amending the Iowa Code to create a new funding source(s).
 - Redirecting current appropriations.
 - Enable levy authority.

References

- Minnesota Code Chapter 202, Article 1, Section 11
- Vermont Municipal and Regional Planning Fund (Title 24, Chapter 117, Section 4306)- collects 17% of the revenue from the property transfer tax.
- Connecticut regional planning funding -
http://www.ct.gov/opm/cwp/view.asp?a=2985&q=383160&opmNav_GID=1807

Recommendation 3.2: Create a sustainable funding source for a smart planning grant program at the state level for local smart plan development and implementation.

Proposal

A sustainable grant program should be created at the state level to assist local governments in the development of local smart plans. While plan creation is the focus, a portion of the funding may be allocated to plan implementation. There

are several options for funding these activities. The Task Force recommends considering:

- Redirect a portion of existing funding sources (e.g. CDBG, Real Estate Transfer Tax, etc.).
- Establish a new funding program.

Justification

- Many local governments currently lack the necessary resources to conduct local smart planning. State support for a portion of the cost of undertaking local smart planning would significantly incentivize this action.
- State support of local planning will assist in decreasing long-term state costs due to disaster losses, will assist with efficient and effective investment decision-making, proactively foster economic development, and impact the state in other positive ways.

Action Steps (Legislative/ Administrative)

- Legislature should consider all options and take action as deemed appropriate to adequately support local planning:
 - Amending the Iowa Code to create a new funding source(s).
 - Redirecting current appropriations.

References

- Wisconsin Code 16.965 Planning grants to local government units.
- Minnesota Code Chapter 202, Article 1, Section 11
- Vermont Municipal and Regional Planning Fund (Title 24, Chapter 117, Section 4306)- collects 17% of the revenue from the property transfer tax.

Recommendation 3.3: Expand the menu of financing options available to local governments to develop and implement smart plans.

Proposal

While smart planning will save local governments money in the long run, for many, additional funding will be required to begin the process. In order to make smart planning a viable option for local governments that may not currently have the capacity, a variety of financial options should be considered. One such option is to allow local governments the authority to levy a special property tax for creation of a smart plan. This levy would fund activities related to the planning process including creation of the plan document, data collection, visioning and public input sessions, and other related activities.

To help implement smart plans, funding options for projects outlined in or consistent with their qualified smart plan should be made available. The following may be considered:

- Expand use of franchise fee revenue to include smart plan implementation.
- Add X cents to capital improvement fund levy to only be used for capital improvement projects described in the smart plan.
- Allow for an energy tax on electricity and natural gas consumption.
- Define smart planning efforts and municipal building projects in identified Priority Growth Areas as an essential corporate purpose Iowa Code, Chapter 384.24.
- Add impact fees in the Iowa Code.

Justification

- Local governments may struggle to identify necessary resources to undertake smart planning. This recommendation provides an additional option for meeting that challenge. Comprehensive smart plans range in cost from approximately \$10,000 for small communities to over \$100,000 for complex plans in the state's largest communities.
- This recommendation allows local governments flexibility and additional options for accessing and utilizing sources of revenue to implement projects. They would not be required to do so.

Action Steps (Legislative/ Administrative)

- Amend Iowa Code (Chapters 381 and 384) to allow cities and counties to levy for creation of a smart plan.
- Legislature should consider the above implementation assistance options and amend the Iowa Code to provide local governments with the appropriate authority and guidance.
- Define Priority Growth Area in State Code, possibly within the Local Comprehensive Planning guidance section (SF 2389)

References

- Wisconsin Statute 66.0617- Impact Fees
- Washington impact fees - <http://www.mrsc.org/mc/rcw/RCW%20%2082%20%20TITLE/RCW%20%2082%20.%2002%20%20CHAPTER/RCW%20%2082%20.%2002%20%20chapter.htm>
- Utah impact fees - http://le.utah.gov/~code/TITLE11/11_36.htm
- Indiana impact fees - <http://www.in.gov/legislative/ic/2010/title36/ar7/ch4.html>
- Woods Cross, UT, energy tax - <http://www.standard.net/topics/energy/2010/06/13/new-energy-use-tax-allows-city-increase-general-fund-expenditures>
- Boulder, CO, energy tax (for use with Climate Change mitigation)- <http://www.colocode.com/boulder2/chapter3-12.htm>
- New Hampshire energy tax - <http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/RSA/html/NHTOC/NHTOC-V-83-E.htm>

Recommendation 3.4: Provide training and technical assistance to state agencies to facilitate integration of the Smart Planning Principles into state investment decision-making processes, particularly grant programs.

Proposal

The Smart Planning Task Force recommends that Iowa Smart Planning Principles be integrated into state investment decisions, particularly grant programs administered by state agencies. The first step to integrating the Principles into state investment decisions is by having state agency strategic plans align with a shared vision that incorporates the Principles as described in Recommendation 1.2 above. Grant decisions made by agencies should subsequently support and align with Smart Planning Principles and state goals. This strategy encourages and provides an incentive for local municipalities to develop comprehensive plans that incorporate Iowa Smart Planning Principles.

OPGIS should help ensure success of integrating the Principles into grant award processes by providing training to state grant fund administrators. This would include establishing measures for success.

Justification

- Provide clear direction and incentives to local governments to incorporate Iowa Smart Planning Principles into local comprehensive plans by aligning state agency investment and grant awards with statewide vision and goals that also incorporate the Principles.

Action Steps (Legislative/ Administrative)

- Allocate funding for OPGIS to provide training to state grant fund administrators on how to incorporate the Iowa Smart Planning Principles into funding decisions.

References

- *Guide for State Agency Strategic Planning*, State of Iowa, April 2007
- Iowa Smart Planning Task Force State Agency Pilot Survey Preliminary Results

Recommendation 3.5: State agencies should set a threshold of or give additional consideration for having a qualified smart plan to receive state funding for infrastructure and public facilities projects that affect land use, transportation, stormwater management, and floodplain protection, where appropriate.

Proposal

The Planning Coordination Council will work with the OPGIS to help state agencies coordinate smart state funding investment. To support this work, the Committee recommends that state agencies consider setting a threshold of having a qualified smart plan in order to access grants for infrastructure and land use projects. Because effective smart planning takes time, this threshold can be crafted with consideration of local and regional entities that are in the process of creating a smart plan (e.g. having passed a resolution stating a smart plan will be created within three years).

Alternatively, state agencies could provide additional consideration on grant applications for projects that are identified in and are consistent with local and regional smart plans. For projects that are not specifically described in the smart plan of the local government, applications could include a question(s) to explain how the proposed project is consistent with an adopted smart plan.

Justification

- Communities that work to meaningfully develop and implement smart plans should receive some form of priority for state funding.
- Setting a threshold of adoption of a smart plan to access state funding streams will help to guide state investment to smart projects, thus ensuring limited state resources are directed toward the most effective and efficient use.
- Additional consideration on grant applications would help projects aligned with smart plans to more readily access state funds.

Action Steps (Legislative/ Administrative)

- Consideration of smart plans amended into administrative rules of participating state agencies.

References

- Connecticut smart growth funding (See #2, section g)-
<http://www.ct.gov/governorrell/cwp/view.asp?A=1719&Q=320908>
- Maryland smart growth funding (Baltimore County- very bottom, second question under “Capital Project Evaluation Criteria”)-
http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/planning/public_facilities_planning/cip.html

- New Jersey smart growth funding (see page 18 specifically)-
<http://www.state.nj.us/dep/dsr/bscit/Incentives%20Document%20May%2007.pdf>

Recommendation 3.6: Create a smart planning education program for local government staff, officials, and the public.

Proposal

The smart planning education program should focus on what smart planning means in terms of plan elements and implementation. The program should reflect the Iowa Smart Planning Principles. Products from this effort will be included in the Smart Planning Toolbox (Recommendation 3.7).

The creation of this program will be led by the League of Cities, ISAC, IARC and the regent universities in collaboration with the OPGIS and other interested stakeholders.

Justification

- An educational program is necessary to ensure that local elected officials, staff, and citizens are knowledgeable about the benefits of smart planning and have the necessary knowledge to apply smart planning concepts within their communities.

Action Steps (Legislative/ Administrative)

- Allocation of resources to support educational programming.

References

- Institute of Local Government (collaboration between CA League of Cities and Association of Counties) -
<http://www.in.gov/legislative/ic/2010/title36/ar7/ch4.html>
- Local Government Institute of Wisconsin- <http://www.localgovinstitute.org/>

Recommendation 3.7: Develop a smart planning toolbox to be housed at OPGIS that will serve as a one-stop shop for smart planning information and resources.

Proposal

The toolbox should include information, clarification, and examples on the smart planning process and smart planning principles; model plans, ordinances, zoning codes, energy codes, building codes, and permitting; regulatory mechanisms; best practices; and a clearinghouse of grant opportunities and contact information for further assistance. A menu of free or low-cost planning services

available to communities through non-profit and private organizations should also be included in the toolbox.

Justification

- A centralized location for smart planning tools and best practices is necessary to compliment educational efforts concerning smart planning and will facilitate consistency of application across the state.

Action Steps (Legislative/ Administrative)

- No specific legislative or administrative action needed.

References

- Municipal Research and Services Center for Washington (www.mrsc.org)
- Connecticut toolbox example - <http://www.dir.ct.gov/opm/IGP/Tools/index.asp>
- Florida toolbox example - <http://www.cues.fau.edu/toolbox/>

Recommendation 3.8: Develop an accessible statewide GIS and data system.

Proposal

To facilitate creation of smart plans at the regional and local level, an accessible GIS and data management system should be readily available. The GIS Coordinating Council and OPGIS should work with existing providers to collect, standardize, and house data at a central location. This data will be useful to planners and professionals in many other jurisdictions and across all levels of government.

Justification

- For local governments to create effective and complete comprehensive plans, mapping functions and data needs to be readily available. Local governments across the state would benefit from a centralized system compiled from accurate and standardized sources.
- Such a system would reduce duplication of efforts and reduce costs in the long-run for all levels of government.
- A return on investment study showed that the establishment of a GIS/data management system could produce a 24% return on investment and return \$5 for every \$1 spent over 20 years; these systems become even more valuable during disasters, such as the floods of 2008 - http://www.rio.iowa.gov/smart_planning/assets/2010-07-07_ROI_studies_overview.pdf

Action Steps (Legislative/ Administrative)

- Adequate resources need to be provided by the Legislature to the OPGIS and GIS/Data Systems Council to develop and maintain the GIS system, and provide necessary technical assistance.

References

- New York State GIS Systems Clearinghouse
- Arkansas's Geographic Information Office's GeoStor
- Minnesota Geospatial Information Office
- Utah State's Geographic Information Database
- Massachusetts Geographic Information System
- New Hampshire's Statewide GIS Clearinghouse
- Return on Investment Case Study of Iowa One Map: A Public Private Partnership for the Shared Development of the Iowa Geospatial Infrastructure: http://www.rio.iowa.gov/smart_planning/assets/2010-07-07_ROI_studies_overview.pdf

Recommendation 4: Develop a watershed planning and coordination program by creating goals and strategies referencing land use for each of Iowa's nine major river basins.

Recommendation 4 satisfies the following task charged to the Iowa Smart Planning Task Force in SF2389:

- *Develop a model for regional comprehensive planning for Iowa and recommend partnerships between state agencies, local governments, educational institutions, and research facilities.*

Proposal

The Committee recommends that a watershed coordination program be created by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) in conjunction with the Flood Center, the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS), the United States Geological Survey (USGS), and the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). This program should include creation of goals and strategies for each of the nine major river basins in Iowa and establish assistance and resources for COGs and local governments for integration of watershed strategies into comprehensive plans. The nine major river basins are the Cedar, Iowa, Lower Des Moines/ Rathbun, Northeast, Northwest, Skunk, Southwest, Upper Des Moines/ Raccoon, Wapsipinicon River Basins.

Justification

- Few decisions have as big an impact on the quality and sustainability of water resources as land use, yet these two are often disconnected in terms of planning. Developing watershed plans that specifically call out land use issues, opportunities, and goals will help COGs create a more integrated and effective comprehensive smart plan.
- Consideration of watershed goals fosters stewardship of resources and a greater collaboration between neighboring regions.
- Connecting watershed issues with land use will help mitigate and prepare for flooding hazards.
- Goals and strategies prepared by the Iowa DNR and other stakeholders provide scientific data on which COGs and local governments can base floodplain land use, significantly streamlining the workload of regional and local governments in addressing catastrophic flooding.

Action Steps (Legislative/ Administrative)

- Add a requirement for watershed plans (with elements to be determined by IDNR and others) to the Iowa Code.

References

- Local Government Commission. *Water Resources and Land Use Planning: Watershed-based Strategies for Venture County.* (2008)

- Genesee Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council. *Keuka Lake Watershed Land Use Planning Guide- An Intermunicipal Action Strategy*. (2009)
- Clallam County, WA. *Elwha-Dungeness Watershed Plan- Land Use and Land Management Recommendations*. (2005)
- Connecticut watershed plans - http://www.ct.gov/dep/cwp/view.asp?a=2719&q=335504&depNav_GID=1654
- Michigan watershed plans - http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,1607,7-135-3313_3682_3714_4012-95955--,00.html

Recommendation 5: Make the definition of “local comprehensive plan” uniform throughout the Iowa Code.

Recommendation 5 supports all of the Iowa Smart Planning Task Force’s recommendations by beginning the process of creating consistency and clarity in the Iowa Code regarding smart planning.

Proposal

Many sections of the current State Code regarding planning issues are out of date. Specifically, the Committee recommends that the term “general plan” should be changed to “comprehensive plan” or otherwise stated to be equivalent in Chapter 403. Additionally, the term “comprehensive plan” in Chapters 354 and 368 should be made uniform with SF2389. This change would be a necessary first step to creating consistency in language and policy.

Justification

- Development of a transparent and efficient planning process at all levels of governments requires consistency and clarity between sections of the Iowa State Code relating to planning.

Action Steps (Legislative/ Administrative)

- Update Chapter 403, changing “general plan” to “comprehensive plan” and using the same “comprehensive plan” definition as utilized by Chapters 335 and 414 as amended by SF 2389).
- Update Chapters 354 and 368 to ensure that the definition of “comprehensive plan” is made uniform with the definition as amended by SF2389.

References

- Iowa Code- Chapter 403: Urban Renewal
- Iowa Code- Chapter 354: Platting – Division and Subdivision of Land
- Iowa Code- Chapter 368: City Development

Iowa Smart Planning Task Force

Committee Membership and References

Committee Name: Intergovernmental Coordination and Information Sharing

Co-Chairs: Emily Shields

Don Temeyer

Scope of Committee Work:

1. Evaluate state policies, programs, statutes, and rules to determine whether they should be revised to integrate the Iowa Smart Planning Principles.
2. Develop a set of recommendations that is consistent with the Iowa Smart Planning Principles and does all of the following:
 - a. Coordinates, facilitates, and centralizes the exchange of information related to state and local planning, zoning, and development between state agencies and the General Assembly.
 - b. Coordinates discussions concerning a proposed geographic information system between the producers and the users of such systems.
 - c. Allows the efficient production and dissemination of population and other demographic statistical forecasts.
 - d. Creates a centralized storage location for all comprehensive plans.
 - e. Facilitates the cooperation of state and local governments with comprehensive planning, educational, and research programs.
 - f. Provides and administers technical and financial assistance for comprehensive planning.
 - g. Provides information to local governments related to state, federal, and other resources for comprehensive planning.

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Committee Name: Comprehensive Planning Committee

Co-Chairs: Les Beck

Rick Hunsaker

Scope of committee work:

1. Develop statewide goals for comprehensive planning that utilize the Iowa Smart Planning Principles and develop recommendations for a process to measure progress toward achieving those goals.
2. Review city and county comprehensive plans to determine the number of such plans that address the hazards as listed in the Hazards Element of the suggested local comprehensive plan guidelines and the adequacy of such plans in addressing those hazards.
3. Evaluate and develop incentives to conduct local and regional comprehensive planning, including but not limited to state financial and technical assistance.
4. Recommend the means by which technical and financial assistance for comprehensive planning can be provided and administered.
5. Develop a model for regional comprehensive planning for Iowa and recommend partnerships between state agencies, local governments, educational institutions, and research facilities.
6. Evaluate and develop incentives to conduct local and regional comprehensive planning, including but not limited to state financial and technical assistance.
7. Recommend the means by which technical and financial assistance for comprehensive planning can be provided and administered.

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Wayne Petersen	Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS)

Urban and Regional Planning

Name	Organization
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David Wilwerding	American Planning Association
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Mary Beth Mellick	Iowa State Association of Counties (ISAC)
Mary Rump	East Central Iowa Council of Governments (ECICOG)
Michele Warren	Iowa Association of Regional Councils (IARC)
Mickey Carlson	Iowa State University Town/Craft
Pamela Myhre	City of Mason City
Rick Hunsaker	Iowa Association of Regional Councils (IARC)
Shirley Helgevold	Mid-Iowa Development Association (MIDAS)
Stuart Meck	Rutgers University

Local/State Government

Name	Organization
Bret Mills	Iowa Department of Economic Development (IDED)
Jessica Harder	Iowa League of Cities
Marie Steenlage	Iowa Department of Economic Development (IDED)
Ruth Randleman	City of Carlisle
Teri Goodman	City of Dubuque

Built Environment

Name	Organization
Carey Nagle	American Institute of Architects
Paula Mohr	Department of Cultural Affairs
Rob Smith	American Institute of Architects
Stuart Crine	Department of Public Safety (DPS)

Legislative

Name	Organization
Bill Freeland	Iowa House Democrats
Debra Kozel	Legislative Services Agency (LSA)
Jace Mikels	Iowa Senate Democrats
Jason Chapman	Iowa House Republicans
Marcia Tannian	Legislative Services Agency (LSA)
Rep. Donovan Olson	State Representative, Democrat
Rep. Tom Schueller	State Representative, Democrat
Theresa Kehoe	Iowa Senate Democrats